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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JUNE 9, 2005

Consulate Adana is providing this press scan for June 9. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

1-SABAH (GUNEY):Ceyhan Municipality and some NGOs will reportedly be holding a conference on the "Armenian Issues and Missionary Activities" in Ceyhan district of Adana on June 11th.

2- SABAH (GUNEY):Osmaniye Governor Isa Kucuk launched a project to erect a statue of the famed archeologist Prof. Halet Cambel in the Karatepe historical site of Osmaniye.

3-BOLGE/: The Mayor of Greater City of Adana Aytac Durak condemned the attack against the Deputy Metropolitan Mayor Prof. Ali Goren (see press summ 6/8) and said that mafia and groups seeking interests committed the act. Durak's comments about various topics on the agenda also included concern about the Incirlik Airbase. Durak reportedly responded to a question saying, "The presence of a military base in Incirlik district disturbs me and if there are nuclear weapons in the base, as a citizen and a human being, I am disturbed about that fact. I am defending non-proliferation."

4-OZGUR GUNDEM: Police officers from Batman Police Station allegedly raided the house of a family and searched the house without a warrant. The members of the family claimed that they were threatened and badly treated.

5-OZGUR GUNDEM: Village guards in Yanikcay village of Gevas in Van have allegedly begun implementing rules similar to the "state of emergency" in the village outskirts to be able to control the village. The guards formed a roadway checkpoint to control the exit from and entrance to the village. Villagers are worried about this practice which reminds them of past measures.

6-RADIKAL/OZGUR GUNDEM/ EVRENSEL: Greenpeace activists staged a protest in front of the Office of the Prime Minister against the alleged presence of nuclear weapons in the Incirlik Airbase and PM's latest visit to the US President. Four protestors were detained briefly.

7-OZGUR GUNDEM:KADER (Association for Support and Training of Women Candidates) will hold the third of the "Meetings with Women Leaders of Turkey" in Tunceli, a province with reportedly the only female mayor in the provincial capital.

8-ZAMAN/EVRENSEL/OZGUR GUNDEM:The lawyers of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan said that if officials did not provide "fair and just conditions" for their client, they would not continue holding meetings with Ocalan. Two lawyers of Ocalan, Dogan Erbas and Firat Aydinkaya claimed that the current conditions were not suitable for the retrial of their client. The lawyers will apply to European Council of Ministers to press for opening the doors for fair circumstances of retrial.

9-EVRENSEL:Private Kurdish language courses in Istanbul, Batman, Van, Urfa, Adana and Diyarbakir are reportedly closing their businesses. The director of the Kurdish language course in Van said that they will be evaluating the situation throughout June and will make a press announcement then. In the meantime, they will be sending petitions to the Turkish Parliament and to the EU to press for the right to learn one's mother tongue in the state schools.

10-ZAMAN:A person in Adana protested a group of DEHAP members who were making a press announcement in Inonu Park with the posters of the terrorist leader. The protestor opened a Turkish flag and shouted "This land is Turkey."

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